

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 48428

DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5)

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
PCT/EP 98/06237	1 October 1998	2 October 1997

TITLE OF INVENTION: ESTERS AS SOLVENTS IN ELECTROLYTE SYSTEMS FOR LI-ION STORAGE CELLS

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Hans-Josef STERZEL, Werner HESSE, Helmut MOEHWALD

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. /X/ This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
 2. / / This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
 3. /X/ This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C.371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
 4. /x / A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
 5. /X/ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
 - a./X/ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b./ / has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c./ / is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/USO).
 6. /X/ A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
 7. / / Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
 - a./ / are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b./ / have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c./ / have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d./ / have not been made and will not be made.
 8. / / A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19(35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
 9. /X/ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s)(35 U.S.C. 171(c)(4)).
 - 10./ / A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).
- Items 11. to 16. below concern other document(s) or information included:
- 11./ / An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
 - 12./X/ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
 - 13./X/ A FIRST preliminary amendment.
/ / A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.
 - 14./ / A substitute specification.
 - 15./ / A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
 - 16./x / Other items or information.
International Search Report
International Preliminary Examination Report

09/509789

422 Rec'd PCT/PTO 30 MAR 2000

U.S. Appln. No. (If Known)

INTERNATIONAL APPLN. NO.
PCT/EP 98/06237ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO.
48428

		CALCULATIONS	PTO USE ONLY
17. /X/ The following fees are submitted			
BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)):			
Search Report has been prepared by the			
EPO or JPO.....	\$840.00	840.00	
International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO			
(37 CFR 1.482).....	\$750.00		
No international preliminary examination fee paid to			
USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but international search fee paid			
to USPTO (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)).....\$700.00			
Neither international preliminary examination fee			
(37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee			
(37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO\$ 970.00			
International preliminary examination fee paid to			
USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied pro			
-visions of PCT Article 33(2)-(4).....\$96.00			
ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =		\$ 840.00	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration			
later than / / 20 / /30 months from the earliest			
claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).			
Claims	Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate
Total Claims	10 -20		X\$18.
Indep.Claims	2 -3		X\$78.
Multiple dependent claim(s)(if applicable)			+270.
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATION		=	840.00
Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable.			
Verified Small Entity statement must also be filed			
(Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28).			
SUBTOTAL		=	840.00
Processing fee of \$130. for furnishing the English			
translation later than / /20 / /30 months from the			
earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)). +			
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE		=	840.00
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)).			
The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover			
sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31) \$40.00 per property =			
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED		= \$	880.00
Amount to be			
refunded:		\$	
Charged		\$	

a./X/ A check in the amount of \$ 880. to cover the above fees is enclosed.

b./ / Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

c./X/ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0345. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

KEIL & WEINKAUF

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Washington, D. C. 20036

Herbert B. Keil

NAME

18,967

Registration No.

SIGNATURE

In re the Application of)	
STERZEL et al.)	BOX PCT
)	
International Application)	
PCT/EP 98/ 06237)	
)	
Filed: October 1, 1998)	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination, kindly amend the above-identified application as follows:

Cancel claims 1-10. Insert new claims 11-20 on the attached sheets.

The claims in the case are claims 11-20. The new claims are presented to put the claims in better form for U.S. filing. No new matter has been added.

Favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

KEIL & WEINKAUF

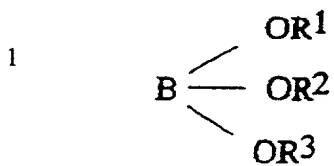
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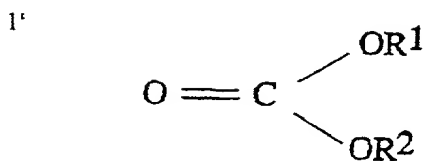
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We claim:

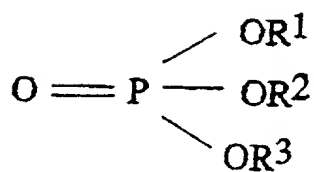
- 11. Method of using one ester of the formula (I) to (V)



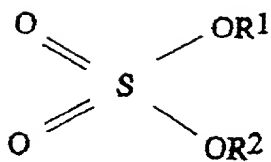
(I)



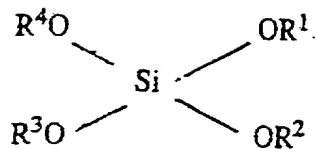
(II)



(III)



(IV)



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(V)

where

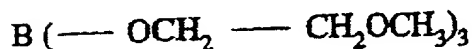
10 $\text{R}^1, \text{R}^2, \text{R}^3, \text{R}^4$ are identical or different and each, independently of one another, are a linear or branched-chain C_1 - to C_4 -alkyl, $(-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{O})_n-\text{CH}_3$ with $n=1$ to 3, a C_3 - to C_6 -cycloalkyl, an aromatic hydrocarbon group which in turn can be substituted, with the proviso that at least one of the groups $\text{R}^1, \text{R}^2, \text{R}^3$ or R^4 is $(-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{O})_n-\text{CH}_3$ with $n=1$ to 3

15 as a solvent in electrolyte systems for Li-ion storage cells.

12. Method according to claim 11, wherein the compound is one wherein R^1, R^2 and, where present, R^3 and/or R^4 are identical and are $-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-\text{CH}_3$ or $(-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{O})_2-\text{CH}_3$.

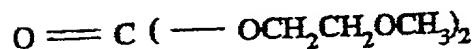
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13. Method of using at least one of the compounds of formulae (Ia) to (Va)



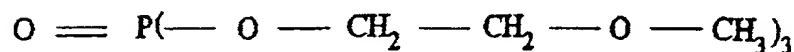
(Ia)

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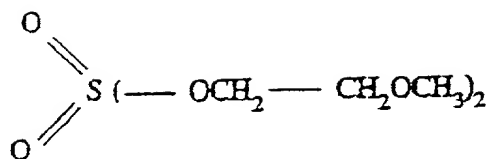


(IIa)

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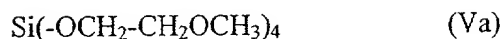


(IIIa)



(IVa)

and



10 as a solvent in electrolyte systems for Li-ion storage cells.

14. Method according to claim 11, wherein LiPF_6

LiBF_4 , LiClO_4 , LiAsF_6 , LiCF_3SO_3 , $\text{LiC}(\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_2)_3$, $\text{LiC}(\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_2)_2$,

15 $\text{LiN}(\text{SO}_2\text{F})_2$, $\text{LiN}(\text{CF}_3\text{CF}_2\text{SO}_2)_2$, LiAlCl_4 , LiSiF_6 , LiSbF_6 or mixtures of two or more thereof are employed as a conducting salt.

15. A composition comprising:

(A) at least one compound of formula (I) to (V) as defined in claim 11, and

20 (B) a conducting salt selected among:

LiPF_6 , LiBF_4 , LiClO_4 , LiAsF_6 , LiCF_3SO_3 , $\text{LiC}(\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_2)_3$, $\text{LiC}(\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_2)_2$,
 $\text{LiN}(\text{SO}_2\text{F})_2$, $\text{LiN}(\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_2)_2$, $\text{LiN}(\text{CF}_3\text{CF}_2\text{SO}_2)_2$, LiAlCl_4 , LiSiF_6 , LiSbF_6
 and a mixture of two or more thereof.

25

16. A composition as claimed in claim 15, wherein the compound (A) is
 selected among the compounds of formulae (Ia) to (Va), as defined in
 claim 3 and a mixture of two or more thereof, and the conducting salt (B)
 is LiBF_4 .

30

17. An Li-ion storage cell comprising at least one ester as defined in claim 11.

18. An Li-ion storage cell comprising a composition as claimed in claim 15.
19. Method of using a composition as claimed in claim 15, as an electrolyte
5 system in Li-ion storage cells.
20. A process for preparing an ester of formula (I) to (V), as defined in claim
11, characterized in that a chloride is employed as a starting material and a
trialkyl amine is used as a scavenger for HCl formed during the
10 preparation of the ester. --

As originally filed

BASF Aktiengesellschaft

NAE19970541PCUS IB/RI/uw

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Esters as solvents in electrolyte systems
for Li-ion storage cells

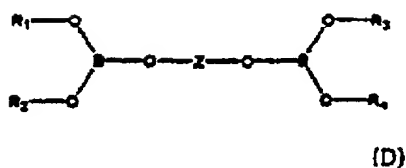
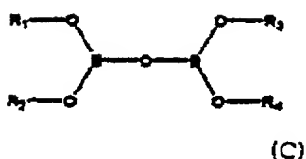
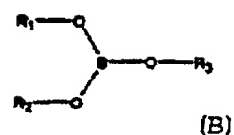
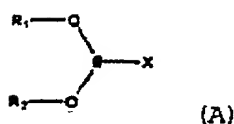
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15 The invention relates to the use of specific esters of boric acid, carbonic acid, silicic acid, phosphoric acid and sulfuric acid as a solvent in electrolyte systems for Li-ion storage cells, to a composition comprising them and to Li-ion storage cells which contain these esters.

20 Until now, the solvents predominantly used in Li storage cells are alkyl ethers such as dimethyl ether, and alkene carbonates such as ethylene carbonate (EC) and propylene carbonate (PC). Such systems are described, inter alia, in JP 08 273 700 and JP 09 115 548.

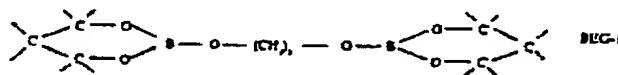
Also known, in addition, are electrolyte solutions based on various esters.

25 Thus, WO97/16862 describes an electrolyte solution which comprises boric acid esters of the following formulae (A) to (D):



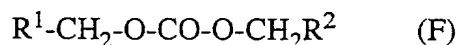
where X is halogen, R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ are straight-chain or branched-chain aliphatic or aromatic alkyls which may be substituted by substituents of various electronegativities and Z is a straight-chain or branched-chain aliphatic or aromatic alkyl or siloxane group.

An electrolyte solvent for rechargeable lithium and lithium-ion batteries based on a boric acid ester referred to as BEG-1, of the following formula (E), in combination with EC and/or PC is described in J. Electrochem. Soc., 143, p. 4047-4053, 1996.



(E)

EP-B 0 599 534 describes carbonate compounds of the following formula (F)



where R¹ is a hydrogen, an alkyl or an alkyl substituted by one or more halogen atoms, and R² is an alkyl which does not contain any α -position

hydrogen or is an alkyl which is substituted by one or more halogen atoms and contains no α -position hydrogen, with the proviso that R^1 is not identical with R^2 , excluding the compound $C_2H_5-O-CO-O-CH_2-(CF_2)_4-H$, and the use of said carbonate compounds in a nonaqueous electrolyte solution.

5

EP-A 0 698 933 relates to a nonaqueous secondary cell which comprises a specific electrolyte solution comprising, inter alia, triesters of phosphoric acid of the formula $(RO)_3P=O$, wherein the groups R are identical or different and in each case are a C_1 - to C_6 -alkyl, or two RO groups together with
10 the phosphorus atom to which they are bound may form a ring. Such alkyl phosphates and the use thereof in nonaqueous electrolyte solutions and secondary cells are also described in EP-A 0 696 077.

The use of phosphoric acid esters of the formula $O=P(-O-(CH_2CH_2O)_qR^2)_3$,
15 where n and q are from 1 to 10 and R^2 is a C_1 - to C_4 -alkyl, as an electrolyte in zinc batteries is described in JP 07 161 357.

Further phosphoric acid esters comprising hydrocarbon groups, and their use as an electrolyte in lithium-ion batteries are described in JP 58 206 078.

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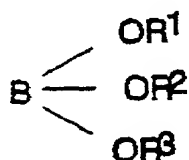
JP 61 256 573 describes an electrolyte based on a polymer of a phosphoric acid ester which comprises at least one polymerizable group.

One of the conclusions to be drawn from the above summary of the prior
25 art is the fact of the prior existence of several electrolyte systems comprising esters based on boric acid esters, carbonic acid esters or phosphoric acid esters. The above-described systems do not, however, meet the ever-increasing demands made of such electrolyte systems or do so but inadequately.

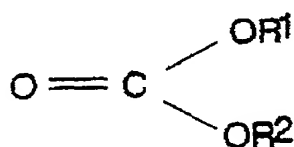
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For example, such electrolyte systems are to exist in the liquid phase over a relatively large temperature range while maintaining a low vapor pressure. They are to have a low viscosity in order thus to ensure sufficiently high conductivity. Moreover they are to be electrochemically and chemically stable and be sufficiently resistant to hydrolysis. In addition, such solvents should be capable of strong solvation of the ions of the conducting salts.

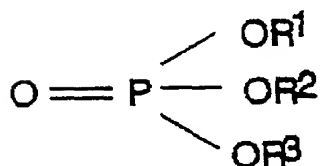
In view of the above prior art, it was an object of the present invention to provide novel solvents for electrolyte systems for Li-ion storage cells, which meet the increasing demands made of these solvents. The present invention therefore relates to the use of at least one ester of the formula (I) to (V)



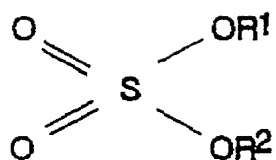
(I)



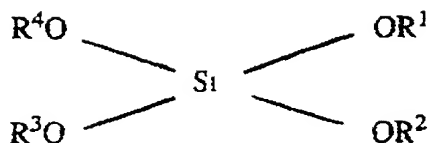
(II)



(III)



(IV)



(V)

where R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 are identical or different and each, independently of one another, are a linear or branched-chain C_1 - to C_4 -alkyl, $(-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{O})_n-\text{CH}_3$ with $n=1$ to 3, a C_3 - to C_6 -cycloalkyl, an aromatic hydrocarbon group which in turn can be substituted, with the proviso that at least one of the groups R^1 , R^2 , R^3 or R^4 is $(-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{O})_n-\text{CH}_3$ with $n=1$ to 3, as a solvent in electrolyte systems for Li-ion storage cells.

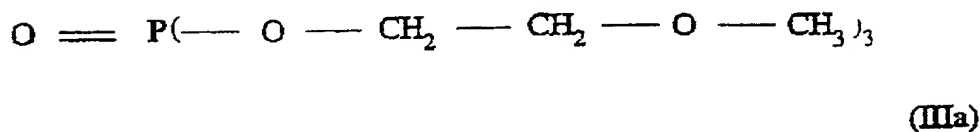
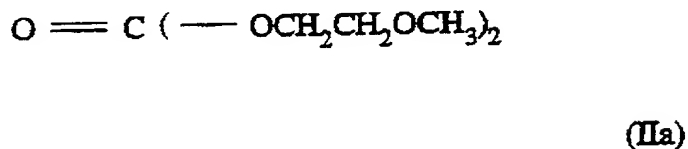
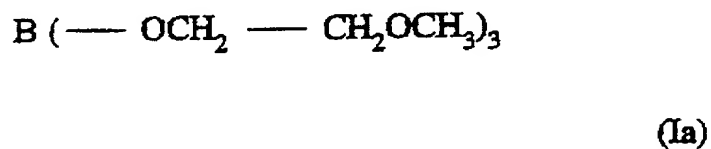
Among the abovementioned esters of formulae (I) to (V), the phosphoric acid esters of formula (III) are used preferentially.

Examples of the groups R^1 , R^2 and, where present, R^3 and/or R^4 are methyl, ethyl, n- and isopropyl, n- and t-butyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl and benzyl, and also $(\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{O})_n-\text{CH}_3$ where $n = 1$ to 3, although it should be noted, as previously mentioned, that at least one of the groups R^1 , R^2 , R^3 or R^4 is $(\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{O})_n-\text{CH}_3$ with $n = 1$ to 3, preferably 1 or 2.

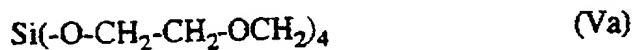
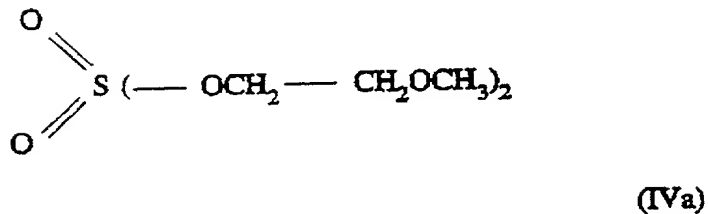
Greater preference is given to the use of esters of the formulae (I) to (V) in which R^1 , R^2 and, where present, R^3 and/or R^4 are identical and are -

$\text{CH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{O-CH}_3$ or $(\text{-CH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{-O})_2\text{-CH}_3$, preference again being given to the corresponding phosphoric acid esters.

Examples of especially preferred compounds are the compounds of formulae
5 (Ia) to (Va):



and



The esters used herein are eminently suitable, in terms of their properties, as solvents in electrolyte systems for Li-ion storage cells and generally have a viscosity, at room temperature, of ≤ 10 mPas, preferably ≤ 5 mPas and in particular ≤ 3 mPas. They have boiling points of, in general, about 200°C or more, preferably about 250°C or more and in particular about 300°C or more, in each case measured at atmospheric pressure, and have a sufficiently low vapor pressure, from roughly about 10^{-5} to about 10^0 mbar at the temperatures of about -50°C to about 150°C encountered in the course of their use, so that they do not have an adverse effect on the characteristics of the Li-ion storage cell. Their boiling points mean that they are distillable and can therefore, in the course of their preparation, be obtained with high purity. Moreover, these esters, of a wide temperature range, are liquid at atmospheric pressure, generally still being liquid over a range extending as far as about -30°C, preferably as far as about -40°C. The esters described in this context can be employed as a solvent in electrolyte systems for Li-ion storage cells at at least about 80°C, preferably at at least about 120°C, more preferably at at least about 150°C.

Obviously, the esters used according to the invention can also be employed as a mixture with known solvents for electrolyte systems, e.g. the alkyl ethers mentioned at the outset, such as dimethyl ether, diethyl ether, dioxalane, diglyme, tetraglyme, 1,2-dimethoxyethane, tetrahydrofuran, 2-methyltetrahydrofuran, etc., and alkylene carbonates such as ethylene carbonate, propylene carbonate, butylene carbonate, γ -butyrolactone, and linear esters such as diethyl carbonate, dimethyl carbonate etc. Again, it is possible to employ a combination of at least one of the esters used according to the invention and at least one further solvent known from the prior art.

Preference is given to solvent combinations which have sufficiently low viscosity, are capable of strong solvation of the ions of the conducting salts, are liquid over a wide temperature range and are adequately electrochemically and chemically stable and resistant to hydrolysis.

5

Furthermore, the esters employed according to the invention can also be employed in combination with polymer electrolytes, such as polymerization products, of boric acid esters, carbonic acid esters, silicic acid esters, phosphoric acid esters and sulfuric acid esters, whose constitution as a rule is such that at least one of the ester groups comprises a polymerizable unit such as a C=C double bond, and/or esters of the corresponding polyacids, for example polyphosphoric acid esters or polysilicic acid esters, and/or other conventional polymer electrolytes, the content of the esters used according to the invention being from about 5 to 100 wt%, preferably from about 20 wt% to 100 wt% and more preferably from about 60 wt% to 100 wt%, the total from ester and polymer electrolyte in each case adding up to 100 wt%.

The esters used according to the invention were prepared according to conventional methods, as described, for example, in K. Mura Kami in Chem. High Polymers (Japan), 7, p. 188-193 (1950) and in H. Steinberg, Organoboron Chemistry, Chapter 5, J. Wiley & Sons, N.Y. 1964. This generally involves starting from the acids, acid anhydrides or chlorides on which the esters are based, e.g. from boric acid, $C(O)Cl_2$, $POCl_3$, SO_2Cl_2 and $SiCl_4$, these being reacted in a known manner with the corresponding mono- or polyhydric alcohols or etherols.

Exemplarily with regard to the preparation of a phosphoric acid ester, example 1a of the present invention describes a process in which trialkyl amine, which can be recycled subsequent to synthesis, is used as HCl scavenger.

In this process, the phosphoric ester of higher purity can be produced.

This concept can be transferred to the preparation of the other esters, as defined herein.

5

Therefore, the present invention relates to a process of preparing an ester of formula (I) to (V), as defined above, characterized in that a chloride is employed as a starting material and a trialkyl amine is used as a scavenger for HCl formed during the preparation of the ester.

10

In principle, each suitable trialkyl amine can be employed. Preferably, trimethyl amine, triethyl amine, tripropyl amine or a mixture of two or more thereof is employed, and, especially preferably, triethyl amine is employed.

15

Preferably, the scavenger can be easily separated from the product, i.e. the ester. In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the scavenger is separated from the product in a separatory funnel and then regenerated in a distillation.

20

The esters employed according to the invention can be combined in conjunction with any of the conducting salts, as described, for example in EP-A 0 096 629, used hitherto for Li-ion storage cells. The use according to the invention preferably involves the use, as conducting salt, of LiPF_6 , LiBF_4 , LiClO_4 , LiAsF_6 , LiCF_3SO_3 , $\text{LiC}(\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_2)_3$, $\text{LiN}(\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_2)_2$, $\text{LiN}(\text{CF}_3\text{CF}_2\text{SO}_2)_2$, $\text{LiN}(\text{SO}_2\text{F})_2$, LiAlCl_4 , LiSiF_6 , LiSbF_6 or a mixture of two or more thereof, the conducting salt used preferentially being LiBF_4 . Particular preference is given to the use of the combination of the esters of formulae (Ia) to (IVa) in conjunction with LiBF_4 as conducting salt, particular preference again being given to the combination of the ester of

25
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formula (IIIa) with LiBF_4 as conducting salt.

The invention therefore also relates to an Li storage cell which comprises at least one ester as defined above.

5

Furthermore, the present invention relates to a composition comprising:

(A) at least one compound of formula (I) to (V) as defined above, and

10 (B) a conducting salt selected among:

LiPF_6 , LiBF_4 , LiClO_4 , LiAsF_6 , LiCF_3SO_3 , $\text{LiC}(\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_2)_3$,
 $\text{LiN}(\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_2)_2$, $\text{LiN}(\text{SO}_2\text{F})_2$, $\text{LiN}(\text{CF}_3\text{CF}_2\text{SO}_2)_2$, LiAlCl_4 , LiSiF_6 ,
 LiSbF_6 and a mixture of two or more thereof,

15

this composition preferably comprising, as the compound (A), at least one ester of formulae (Ia) to (Va), more preferably the ester of formula (IIIa), in each case in conjunction with LiBF_6 and/or LiBF_4 as compound (B).

20 In particular, the present invention relates to compositions comprising as

- component (B) LiBF_4 or a mixture of LiBF_4 and LiPF_6 with a preferred molar ratio $\text{LiBF}_4:\text{LiPF}_6$ of from 0.1:9.9 to 9.9:0.1 and as
 - component (A) a mixture of one of the esters of formula (I) to (V), preferably the esters of formula (III) and especially the esters of the formula (IIIa), and, if necessary, at least one further suitable solvent
- 25 of the group comprising alkyl ethers as e.g. dimethyl ether, diethyl ether, dioxalane, diglyme, tetraglyme, 1,2-dimethoxyethane, tetrahydrofuran, 2-methyltetrahydrofuran and alkylene carbonates as, e.g., ethylene carbonate, propylene carbonate, butylene carbonate, γ -
- 30 butyrolactone and linear esters as, e.g., diethyl carbonate, dimethyl

carbonate, the ester hereby constituting 10 to 100 % by wt. of the mixture.

The present invention also relates to compositions comprising as

- 5 - component (B) LiPF_6 and as
- component (A) a mixture of the ester of formula (IIIa) and at least one further suitable solvent of the group comprising alkyl ethers as, e.g., dimethyl ether, diethyl ether, dioxalane, diglyme, tetraglyme, 1,2-dimethoxyethane, tetrahydrofuran, 2-methyltetrahydrofuran and alkylene carbonates as, e.g., ethylene carbonate, propylene carbonate, butylene carbonate, γ -butyrolactone and linear esters as, e.g., diethyl carbonate, dimethyl carbonate, the ester of formula (IIIa) hereby constituting x %
10 by wt. of the mixture, where $10 \leq x < 100$.

- 15 The solution of compound (B) in compound (A) is generally from about 0.2 to about 3 molar, preferably from about 0.5 to about 2 molar, more preferably from about 0.7 to about 1.5 molar.

Furthermore, the present invention relates to the use of the above-defined
20 composition as an electrolyte system in Li-ion storage cells and to an Li-ion storage cell comprising a composition as defined above.

Within the scope of the novel Li-ion storage cell it is possible to use any of the cathode materials customary for Li-ion storage cells, such as LiCoO_2 ,
25 LiNiO_2 , Li_xMnO_2 ($0 < x \leq 1$), $\text{Li}_x\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_4$, ($0 < x \leq 2$), Li_xMoO_2 ($0 < x \leq 2$), Li_xMnO_3 ($0 < x \leq 1$), Li_xMnO_2 ($0 < x \leq 2$), $\text{Li}_x\text{Mn}_2\text{O}_4$ ($0 < x \leq 2$), $\text{Li}_x\text{V}_2\text{O}_4$ ($0 < x \leq 2.5$), $\text{Li}_x\text{V}_2\text{O}_3$ ($0 < x \leq 3.5$), Li_xVO_2 ($0 < x \leq 1$), Li_xWO_2 ($0 < x \leq 1$), Li_xWO_3 ($0 < x \leq 1$), Li_xTiO_2 ($0 < x \leq 1$), $\text{Li}_x\text{Ti}_2\text{O}_4$ ($0 < x \leq 2$), Li_xRuO_2 ($0 < x \leq 1$), $\text{Li}_x\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ($0 < x \leq 2$), $\text{Li}_x\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ ($0 < x \leq 2$), $\text{Li}_x\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3$
30 ($0 < x \leq 3$), $\text{Li}_x\text{Cr}_3\text{O}_4$ ($0 < x \leq 3.8$), $\text{Li}_x\text{V}_3\text{S}_5$ ($0 < x \leq 1.8$), $\text{Li}_x\text{Ta}_2\text{S}_2$

($0 < x \leq 1$), Li_xFeS ($0 < x \leq 1$), Li_xFeS_2 ($0 < x \leq 1$), Li_xNbS_2 ($0 < x \leq 2.4$),
 Li_xMoS_2 ($0 < x \leq 3$), Li_xTiS_2 ($0 < x \leq 2$), Li_xZrS_2 ($0 < x \leq 2$), Li_xNbSe_2
($0 < x \leq 3$), Li_xVSe_2 ($0 < x \leq 1$), Li_xNiPS_2 ($0 < x \leq 1.5$), Li_xFePS_2
($0 < x \leq 1.5$) and a mixture of two or more of these, possibly together with
5 a binder such as polytetrafluoroethylene and poly(vinylidene fluoride).

The anode material used may likewise be any of the anode materials customarily employed in Li-ion storage cells, such as metals, for example metallic lithium, lithium-containing metal alloys, a metal sulfide or a carbon-
10 containing material, especial preference being given to carbon-containing materials which are capable of storing and releasing lithium ions. To be mentioned among carbon-containing materials of this type are natural and synthetic graphite or amorphous carbon such as activated carbon, carbon fibers, synthetically graphitized coal dust and carbon black. It is also
15 possible to use oxides such as titanium oxide, zinc oxide, tin oxide, molybdenum oxide, tungsten oxide, and carbonates such as titanium carbonate, molybdenum carbonate and zinc carbonate.

Further details regarding suitable anode and cathode materials and the
20 fabrication of the Li-ion storage cells can be gathered from the prior art mentioned at the outset, which is incorporated by reference.

If required, the solvent according to the invention may also be admixed with solids such as SiO_2 and Al_2O_3 .

25

The fabrication of the Li-ion storage cells generally involves the coating of the current collector electrodes with the anode or cathode material, the insertion of spacers e.g. made of stretched polypropylene, and the addition of the electrolyte, after which this system consisting of cathode, anode,
30 spacer and electrolyte is wrapped and inserted into a jacket.

The present invention will now be explained in more detail with reference to a few examples according to the invention and with the aid of Figures 1 to 3,

5 where Figure 1 depicts a cyclovoltammogramm (CV) in the voltage window from 0 to 4.3 V, recorded with the test cell according to Example 2,

Figure 2 depicts a CV in the voltage window of a lithium-ion battery from 3.3 to 4.3 volts, recorded with the test cell according to Example 3,

10

Figure 3 depicts a CV in the voltage window of from 2.75 to 4.5 volts, recorded with the test cell according to Example 4.

EXAMPLE 1

15

To prepare the phosphoric ester of formula $\text{O}=\text{P}(-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{OCH}_3)_3$, 274 g (3.6 mol) of methylglycol together with 2 g of ZnCl_2 were introduced as the initial charge into a 1,000 ml round-bottomed flask and cooled to 5°C. Then, 153.33 g (1 mol) of POCl_3 were added dropwise over
20 a period of 50 min, the temperature being maintained at approximately 5°C to 10°C. After the addition was complete, a clear solution was obtained which was allowed to warm to room temperature. The product mixture obtained was then distilled in vacuo (80 to 90 mbar) at about 50°C to 55°C, to remove unreacted starting material and by-products.

25

Distillation then continued in high vacuum (about 0.02 mbar) at about 170°C, affording the desired product. The water content of the above phosphoric ester was 20 ppm.

30

EXAMPLE 1a

To prepare the phosphoric acid ester of the formula $\text{O}=\text{P}(\text{-O-CH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{-O-CH}_3)_3$, 137 g (1.8 mole) methylglycol and 1 g ZnCl_2 were introduced as
5 initial charge into a flask. In a nitrogen atmosphere, 570.75 g toluene were added while the mixture was stirred. Then, 151.8 g triethyl amine were added dropwise and the content of the flask was cooled to 5°C . Then, 76.7 g POCl_3 were added dropwise within 30 min, the temperature being maintained at approximately $5 - 10^\circ\text{C}$. After the addition was complete,
10 cooling was turned off. While stirring the temperature of the solution rose to 23°C .

Then, the solution was heated to 110°C , refluxed within approximately 1 to 1.5 h and cooled to room temperature.

15 While the solution was stirred vigorously, 360 g of the 20 % by wt. NaOH solution was added dropwise and the resulting solution transferred to a separatory funnel in which the phases were separated.

20 From the lower, aqueous phase the triethyl amine was regenerated by means of distillation.

From the upper, organic phase the toluene was removed under standard pressure by means of distillation. Afterwards, under high vacuum at a
25 pressure of 0.3 mbar and at a temperature of approximately 170°C , the product, the phosphoric acid triester, was separated by means of distillation.

Compared to example 1, example 1a provides a product having a lower water content (15 ppm). A further advantage of example 1a is an enhanced
30 purity of the product, i.e. the amount of phosphoric acid triester could be

increased compared to, e.g., phosphoric acid diester.

EXAMPLE 2

5 The product of composition $\text{O}=\text{P}(-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-\text{CH}_3)_3$ and a highly pure conducting salt LiPF_6 were used in the preparation, under an inert-gas atmosphere, of a 0.1 M electrolyte. This electrolyte was then used in the assembly of a 3-electrode cell comprising platinum as the working electrode, platinum as the counterelectrode and a Li metal strip as the reference
10 electrode for electrochemical measurements.

This electrochemical test cell was then used to record a cyclovoltammogram in the voltage window from 0 to 4.3 volts versus Li/Li^+ , to determine the electrochemical stability of this solvent.

15

The measuring conditions were as follows:

Starting from the open-circuit potential, oxidation was first carried out as far as 4.3 V, at a constant scan rate of 0.1 mV/sec, followed by reduction as far as 3.0 V. Subsequently, a further cycle was run in this voltage window.

20 Figure 1 shows that the abovementioned phosphoric acid ester is electrochemically inert in the voltage range customarily used in rechargeable lithium-ion batteries and is therefore suitable as an electrolyte solvent.

EXAMPLE 3

25

By a method similar to that of Example 2, an electrochemical 3-electrode test cell was again assembled, except that this time a 0.5 M $\text{LiPF}_6/\text{O}=\text{P}(-\text{O}-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-\text{CH}_3)_3$ electrolyte was used. The working electrode used in this case was an Li-manganese spinel coating on aluminum foil, and Li metal
30 was used as the counter and the reference electrode.

In the typical voltage window of a lithium-ion battery, from 3.3 to 4.3 volts, a cyclovoltammogramm was again run at a scan rate of 0.01 mV/sec, which is realistic for batteries.

- 5 As can be seen from Figure 2, the twin redox peak, typical for such a spinel, was produced both in the course of oxidation (= extracalation of the Li ions from the spinel host lattice) and of reduction (= intercalation of Li ions into the spinel host lattice). The electrolyte used can therefore be employed for rechargeable lithium-ion batteries comprising Li-manganese
10 spinel cations.

EXAMPLE 4

- The product of composition $O=P(-O-CH_2-CH_2-O-CH_3)_3$ and a highly pure
15 conducting salt $LiBF_4$ having a concentration of 1 M in the ester $O=P(-O-CH_2-CH_2-O-CH_3)_3$ were used in the preparation, under an inert-gas atmosphere, of a 0.1 M electrolyte.

Measuring conditions:

- 20 Starting from the open-circuit potential, oxidation was first carried out as far as 4.3 V vs. Li/Li^+ , at a scan rate of 0.33 mV/sec, followed by reduction as far as 3.3 V. Subsequently, 2 full cycles were run in this voltage window.

- As Figure 3 shows, this electrolyte too is stable in the voltage window of
25 the lithium-ion battery and can thus be used as an electrolyte system.

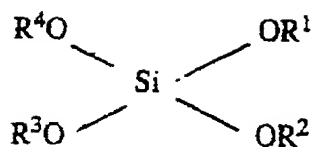
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- 10



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(V)

5 where

$\text{R}^1, \text{R}^2, \text{R}^3, \text{R}^4$ are identical or different and each, independently of one another, are a linear or branched-chain C_1 - to C_4 -alkyl, $(-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{O})_n-\text{CH}_3$ with $n=1$ to 3, a C_3 - to C_6 -cycloalkyl, an aromatic hydrocarbon group which in turn can be substituted, with the proviso
10 that at least one of the groups $\text{R}^1, \text{R}^2, \text{R}^3$ or R^4 is $(-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{O})_n-\text{CH}_3$ with $n=1$ to 3,

for use as a solvent in electrolyte systems for Li-ion storage cells.

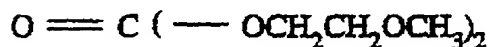
15 2. The compound as claimed in claim 1, for the use as a solvent in electrolyte systems for Li-ion storage cells wherein R^1, R^2 and, where present, R^3 and/or R^4 are identical and are $-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-\text{CH}_3$ or $(-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{O})_2-\text{CH}_3$.

20 3. At least one of the compounds of formulae (Ia) to (Va)



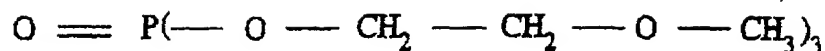
(Ia)

25

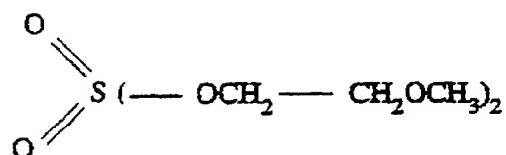


(IIa)

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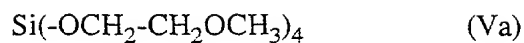


(IIIa)



(IVa)

and



for use as a solvent in electrolyte systems for Li-ion storage cells.

4. Compound as claimed in any one of the preceding claims for the use as a solvent in electrolyte systems for Li-ion storage cells, wherein LiPF_6 , LiBF_4 , LiClO_4 , LiAsF_6 , LiCF_3SO_3 , $\text{LiC}(\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_2)_3$, $\text{LiN}(\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_2)_2$, $\text{LiN}(\text{SO}_2\text{F})_2$, $\text{LiN}(\text{CF}_3\text{CF}_2\text{SO}_2)_2$, LiAlCl_4 , LiSiF_6 , LiSbF_6 or mixtures of two or more thereof are employed as a conducting salt.

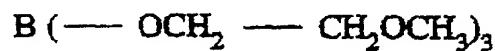
5. A composition comprising:

(A) at least one compound of formula (I) to (V) as defined in claim 1, and

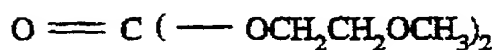
(B) a conducting salt selected among:

LiPF₆, LiBF₄, LiClO₄, LiAsF₆, LiCF₃SO₃, LiC(CF₃SO₂)₃,
LiN(SO₂F)₂, LiN(CF₃SO₂)₂, LiN(CF₃CF₂SO₂)₂, LiAlCl₄, LiSiF₆,
LiSbF₆ and a mixture of two or more thereof.

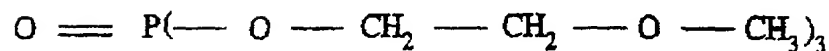
6. A composition as claimed in claim 5, wherein the compound (A) is selected among the compounds of formulae (Ia) to (Va)



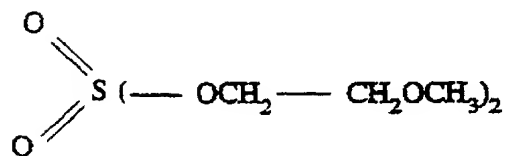
(Ia)



(IIa)



(IIIa)



(IVa)

$$\text{Si}(-\text{OCH}_2-\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_3)_4 \quad (\text{Va})$$

7. An Li-ion storage cell comprising at least one ester as defined in any one of claims 1 to 3.

8. An Li-ion storage cell comprising a composition as claimed in claim 5 or 6.

9. A composition as claimed in claim 5 or 6 for use as an electrolyte system in Li-ion storage cells.

10. A process for preparing an ester of formula (I) to (V), as defined in claim 1, characterized in that a chloride is employed as a starting material and a trialkyl amine is used as a scavenger for HCl formed during the preparation of the ester.

Key for the figures

Fig. 2/3

horizontal: voltage [mV]

5 vertical: current [mA]

Fig. 3/3

horizontal: voltage [mV]

vertical: current

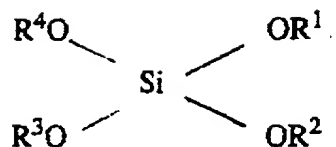
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(V)

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where R¹, R², R³, R⁴ are identical or different and each, independently of one another, are a linear or branched-chain C₁- to C₄-alkyl, (-CH₂-CH₂-O)_nCH₃ with n=1 to 3, a C₃- to C₆-cycloalkyl, an aromatic hydrocarbon group which in turn can be substituted, with the proviso that at least one of the groups R¹, R², R³ or R⁴ is (-CH₂-CH₂-O)_n-CH₃ with n=1 to 3,

is used as a solvent in electrolyte systems for Li-ion storage cells.

FIG.1

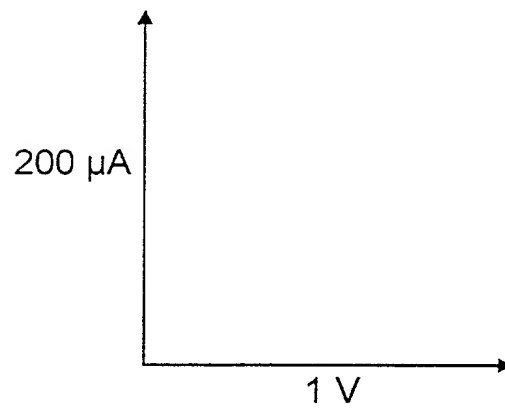
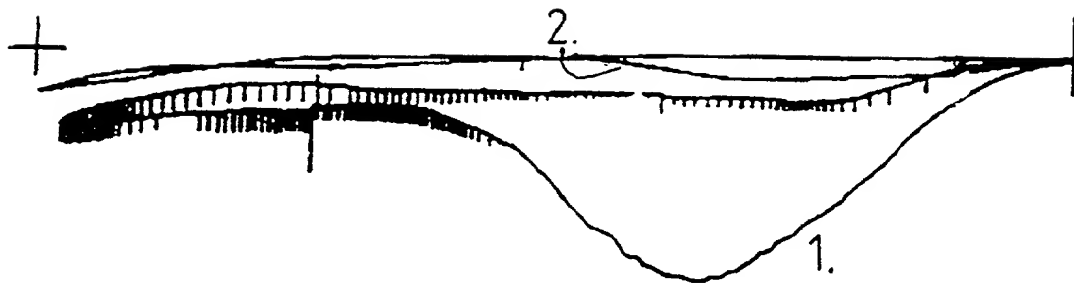
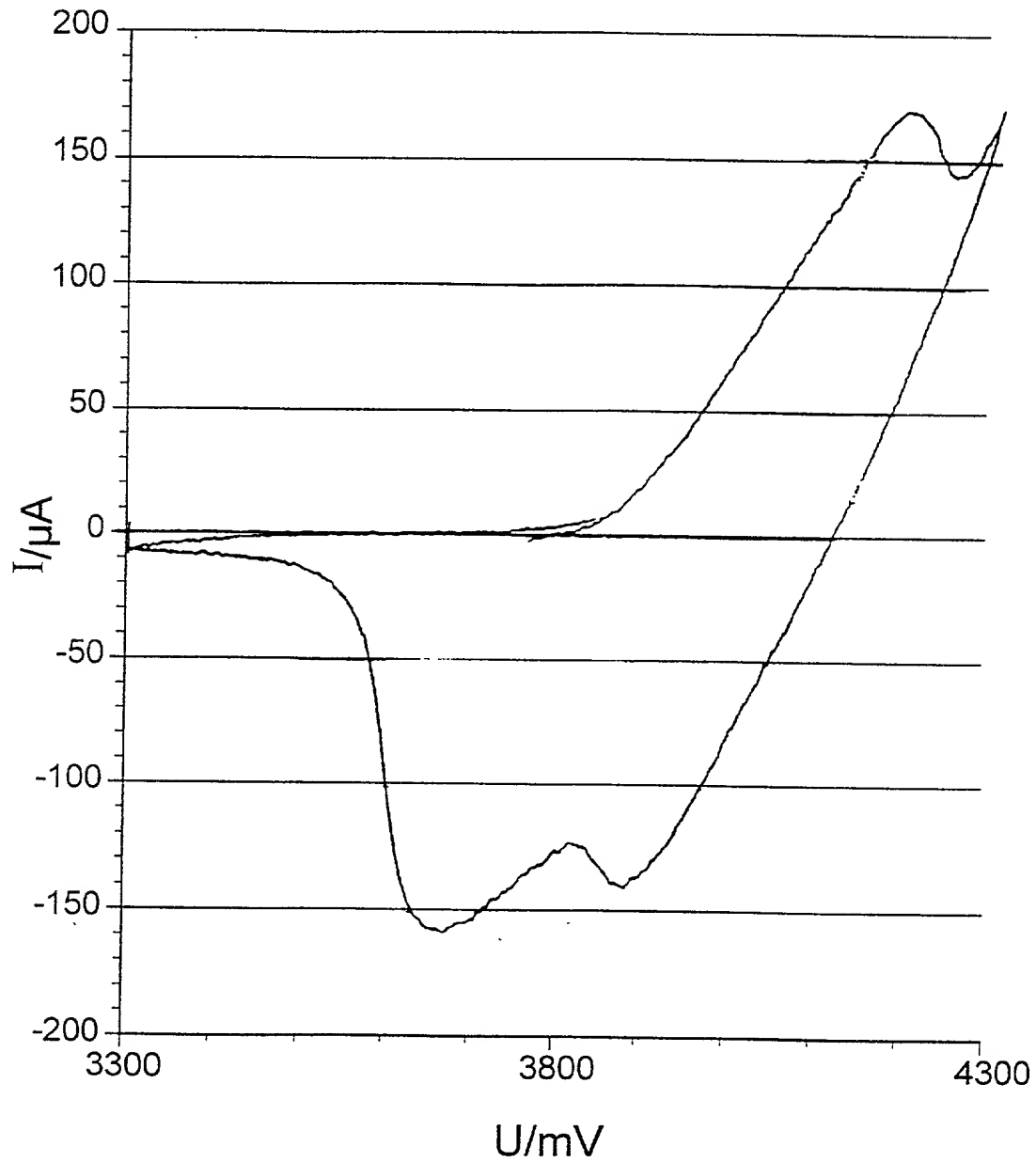
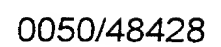


FIG.2



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Declaration, Power of Attorney

Page 1 of 3

0050/048428

We (I), the undersigned inventor(s), hereby declare(s) that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

We (I) believe that we are (I am) the original, first, and joint (sole) inventor(s) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

Esters as solvents in electrolyte systems for Li-ion storage cells

the specification of which

☐ is attached hereto.

☐ was filed on _____ as

Application Serial No. _____

and amended on _____.

☒ was filed as PCT international application

Number PCT/EP98/06237

on October 1, 1998

and was amended under PCT Article 19

on _____ (if applicable).

We (I) hereby state that we (I) have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

We (I) acknowledge the duty to disclose information known to be material to the patentability of this application as defined in Section 1.56 of Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations.

We (I) hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)–(d) or § 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed. Prior Foreign Application(s)

Application No.	Country	Day/Month/Year	Priority Claimed
19743748.6	Germany	02 October 1997	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

We (I) hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Codes, § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

_____	_____
(Application Number)	(Filing Date)
_____	_____
(Application Number)	(Filing Date)

We (I) hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 120 of any United States application(s), or § 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application.

Application Serial No.	Filing Date	Status (pending, patented, abandoned)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

2 And we (I) hereby appoint **Messrs. HERBERT B. KEIL**, Registration Number 18,967; and **RUSSEL E. WEINKAUF**, Registration Number 18,495; the address of both being Messrs. Keil & Weinkauf, 1101 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, (telephone 202-659-0100), our attorneys, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application, to make alterations and amendments therein, to sign the drawings, to receive the patent, and to transact all business in the Patent Office connected therewith.

We (I) declare that all statements made herein of our (my) own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

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